



CALPEEK

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NEW POLL SHOWS OAKLAND MAYOR WILSON IN 3rd.
Surprise, surprise. A new Oakland Tribune/Gallup Poll released in the May 20 edition of the Tribune shows incumbent Mayor Lionel Wilson in third place with 18%. Ahead of Wilson are frontrunner Assemblyman Elihu Harris with 32% and Oakland Councilman Wilson Riles Jr. with 22%. Other individuals had 5% and the undecided was 22%. The small sample size of 300 has a +/- margin of 6%. The survey was taken between May 10-14. Insiders think Mayor Wilson's 3rd place finish in this poll can be attributed to the abortive Raider football deal. At the same time, 22% is a large undecided vote which could swing in just about any direction. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: INSIDERS BELIEVE DEMO AG RACE COULD HINGE ON McMARTIN BROUHAHA...
L.A. Dist. Atty. Ira Reiner's worst nightmare is coming true once again. The highly volatile and high news media profile McMartin Case is once again in the headlines and on TV — and the current spin is NOT favorable to Reiner's current bid to win the CA Demo Party AG nomination. Especially harmful was a May 23 editorial in the L.A. Times which said Reiner should pay more attention to his current job than to his political ambitions. Hard hitting stuff...

...But despite the negatives of McMartin, most insiders still feel Reiner has a very slight edge in his battle with S.F. DA Arlo Smith. The polling is inconclusive. The L.A. Times poll shows Reiner ahead by a 24% to 16% margin, with 59% undecided. But the CA Poll has the race dead even — 27% each, with 46% undecided. When Reiner began this race he was way ahead of Smith. The drop in Reiner's numbers started about the same time as the acquittal decisions in the first McMartin trial...

...So why isn't Smith killing Reiner at

this point? In the FREE news media part of the campaign, Smith is doing a credible job of hammering Reiner. Reiner's even afraid to be seated side-by-side with Smith, because the normally mild mannered Smith has turned into a campaign tiger...

...But the reason why Smith can't put this race away is simple: he DOESN'T have any MONEY. If he had money, Smith would have been on TV a long time ago, pounding Reiner on the issues. The fact is that Smith is NOT a good fundraiser and this has been the key problem all along. This is not to say that Reiner is a good fundraiser. But he's already a well known name in the key L.A. media market. Smith is still unknown...

...FYI: PORAC is making another independent expenditure for Smith. They bought \$40,000 worth of radio spots in the L.A. area for Smith. Consultant Hank Sheinkopf did the creative work...

CAMPAIGN 1990: SECRETARY OF STATE EU WAITS AS FLORES & LEVY BATTLE FOR GOP NOMINATION.
Most political insiders agree that popular Demo Secretary of State March Fong Eu can do just about whatever she wants from June to November if L.A. Co. Dep. DA Gordon Levy wins the GOP nomination for Secretary of State. But if L.A. Councilwoman Joan Milke Flores should win, then Eu will have her hands full...

...But the question is whether Flores can win the primary. The most recent CA Poll by Mervin Fields shows Levy out in front, 30% to 15%, with a huge 55% undecided...

...Except for her San Pedro/Harbor area council district, Flores is NOT all that well known in L.A. City or County, let alone the rest of the State. As for GOP

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politics, Levy has been around a long time and is better known. And when it comes to ballot titles, being a deputy DA is considered much better than councilwoman...

...But many GOP strategists think Flores would be the best contender against Eu because she is not as hardlined as Levy on some of the key campaign issues. Indeed, Levy is pushing his conservative credentials very hard, and in a GOP primary this can't be discounted...

...But then there's the old EQUALIZER — something Gordon Levy can only dream about: MONEY. Flores is an excellent fundraiser and has a huge war chest of about \$450,000. She plans to use all of it on DIRECT MAIL by buying onto all of the major GOP slates and mailing letters/brochures to high propensity Republican voters...

...It's a somewhat risky strategy not being on TV or radio for an office that already suffers from low visibility, but Flores' consultants believe this is the way to go for June 5th, especially if there is a low voter turnout. Stay tuned...

IS ABORTION THE BIG CAMPAIGN ISSUE IN 1990?

The debate over ABORTION here in Calif. is certainly one of the top issues in the June 5 primary. But in many cases, especially with lower profile legislative races, abortion must share the political issues spotlight with ETHICS and the ENVIRONMENT...

...In the race for governor, all three contenders are PRO-CHOICE, yet the issue of who is the strongest protector of those rights has reared its head more than once in the Demo primary between former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein and AG John Van de Kamp. In the Republican LG's race, a clear contrast has developed between PRO-CHOICE State Sen. John Seymour and PRO-LIFE State Sen. Marian Bergeson. This primary is very tight and abortion may swing the race...

...Thanks to conservative PRO-LIFE Assemblyman Bill Baker(R-Danville), the entire controversy of abortion in GOP primaries has surfaced as a key issue in some campaigns. In the 76th A.D., PRO-CHOICE GOP incumbent Tricia Hunter is under siege from Connie Youngkin, an Operation Rescue leader from Poway. Hunter is favored, but insiders are nervous and watching closely...

...Abortion is a KEY issue in at least two other important races: the 70th A.D. between hardline conservative PRO-LIFE incumbent Gil Fergeson(R-Newport Beach) and PRO-CHOICE challenger Phyllis Badham; and in the 79th A.D. between Demo PRO-LIFE incumbent Peter Chacon of San Diego and PRO-CHOICE challenger Celia Ballesteros. In both cases, the CA Abortion Rights Action League has targeted the PRO-LIFE incumbents. Fergeson is favored in his race, while an upset is possible in the 79th. Abortion shares attention with ethics in the 37th A.D., where PRO-CHOICE challenger Hunt Braly is trying to upset incumbent PRO-LIFE Assemblywoman Cathie Wright(R)...

...As for OPEN assembly seats, keep your eyes on 3 districts that should be held by the Republicans: the 58th (Brown), the 52nd (Hill) and 38th (La Follette). In the 58th, 3 of 5 GOP rivals are PRO-CHOICE, Dr. Sy Alban, Long Beach Councilwoman Jan Hall and businessman Peter von Elten. In the 52nd, of the 5 key GOP rivals, Wil Baca and attorney Paul Horcher are PRO-CHOICE. And in the 38th, 2 of the 3 GOP rivals are PRO-CHOICE, Rob Wilcox and Bob Scott...

...When it comes to predictions for these open seats, the PRO-CHOICE forces feel they have the best shot in the 58th (w/Alban or von Elten). It's going to be tougher to capture the 52nd. As for the 38th A.D., rate it as leaning toward Paula Boland, who is PRO-LIFE, but Wilcox may squeeze in...

ANTI-REMAPIING ADS TO FEATURE JAMES GARNER.

In addition to the current 4 TV spots with actor Jack Lemmon, the NO on Prop. 118/119 Committee also has 2 ads in the can featuring popular actor James Garner. FYI: the level of paranoia and suspicion by the NO on 118/119 campaign is getting more pronounced as a GOP slate card produced by Civic Communications carries a plug for #118 — the Gary Flynn 2/3rds remapping plan, which is supposed to be broke. No mention of 119 on this same GOP slate, but slate director Mike Meyers says there's no conspiracy. No conspiracy, but politics, because consultant Ron Smith is running 119 along with the LG campaign of Marian Bergeson. The Civic Communications slate to 1 million AV GOP voters carries LG candidate John Seymour, who paid to be on this particular slate, along with Props. 108/111. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: ASSEMBLY ELECTION UPDATE.

Editor's note: SAN DIEGO is the hot spot in this year's primary, especially in the State Assembly. Here's a brief update:

- 79th A.D. - In this district incumbent Demo Assemblyman Peter Chacon is under increasing pressure from former San Diego Councilwoman Celia Ballesteros. In all the districts where incumbents are under siege, this is the district where an upset could take place. Ballesteros has just hired consultant Larry Remer and his Primacy Group, who have a reputation for knocking off incumbents with some impressive direct mail. The Ballesteros campaign has just released a 15-page booklet that documents the case against Chacon. It is well researched, is easy to read and hits Chacon in some very vulnerable spots -- abortion, ethics and residency. It's one of the best hits of 1990 and might make the difference...

- 78th A.D. - The GOP nightmare is that former San Diego Councilman Mike Gotch loses the regular Demo primary to Dep. AG Howard Wayne, thus forcing former city staffer Jeff Marston into a tougher race. But it's only a nightmare and not reality because Wayne may be on the ballot, but is not actively campaigning. Marston is the Republican assembly candidate in this special election to fill out the term of now State Sen. Lucy Killea(D). If Marston can win the June 5 special, he goes into the November election with the title of incumbent. That's why the race is important. For Gotch, the April primary was a complete disaster, which is why he's got a new campaign team. But unfortunately for Gotch, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown(D) has other priorities. Gotch has even acknowledged this fact. But there is a Demo assembly team helping out. Whether it will be enough is questionable. Marston and the CA GOP are working hard to take this district away from Demo control. Gov. George Deukmejian will be in town for a Marston fundraiser May 30th. Right now, the edge belongs to Marston...

- 75th A.D. - One of the Demos favorite Republicans is Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonnier. That's part of the reason why Sunny has 3 GOP challengers. Mojonnier also has some ETHICS problems too, having been hit with a \$13,200 fine for billing business trips to both her campaign fund and the

State of Calif. And San Diego area newspapers are on her case too. But insiders think she'll survive partly because there are just TOO MANY challengers who will badly split the vote, thus allowing Mojonnier to win a plurality. Mojonnier's toughest opponent is former Del Mar Mayor Ronnie Delaney. She has a strong base of GOP support and has raised a moderate war chest. She is also PRO-CHOICE. Whether she can pull the upset is questionable. Consultant Harvey Englander is managing Mojonnier's reelection bid. Edge to Mojonnier...

CAMPAIGN 1990: 4 INLAND EMPIRE A.D. RACES.

Editor's note: Here's a brief report on 4 CA Assembly District primaries that are being fought in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties...

- 61st A.D. - Freshman GOP Assemblyman Paul Woodruff is a solid favorite to defeat Highland Mayor Dennis Johnson in the June 5 GOP primary. About the only big difference in these two is that Johnson is PRO-CHOICE and Woodruff is PRO-LIFE. That might make for an interesting comparison...

- 65th A.D. - With Assemblyman Chuck Bader(R) stepping down, the favorite to replace him in the contested GOP primary is Jim Brulte, Bader's top AA and long time GOP activist. GOP Councilman Mark Nymeyer of Pomona doesn't have the base of support nor the money to give Brulte a battle...

- 66th A.D. - This is a rerun of the very bitter and expensive 1988 Demo primary with a KEY DIFFERENCE. This time Assemblyman Jerry Eaves is back in the good graces of the Demo Caucus and the Gang of Five stuff is past history. So this time the campaign of Demo San Bernardino Community College Trustee Joe Baca won't be well funded. Eaves should have no trouble...

- 68th A.D. - While Demo incumbent Steve Clute of Riverside waits, GOP activist Clay Hage and Banning Councilman Terry Holbert slug it out for the Republican nomination. Hage is a slight favorite to win. Sources say Holbert doesn't have any money, while Hage's moderately funded campaign will have enough money for mail and signs. The big question follows the primary: will the GOP Assembly Caucus again target Clute???

THE RACE TO REPLACE SCHABARUM HEATING UP.

The June 5 primary to replace conservative L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum has been very quiet for almost 2 months. Now all of a sudden the race is getting warm...

...There are 10 candidates in all, but most insiders see this race as a 3-tier affair. In the FIRST tier there is Schabarum's hand-picked candidate, Judge Greg O'Brien; Schabarum's former deputy Sarah Flores, who is backed by L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block and Supes. Mike Antonovich and Deane Dana; and former Congressman and West Covina Mayor Jim Lloyd. The SECOND tier includes Monrovia Mayor Bob Bartlett and Pomona Councilwoman Nell Soto. And then there's the rest of the pack...

...Most insiders predict only those in the 1st tier will be serious players. The top money raisers will be O'Brien and Flores, not necessarily in that order, with Lloyd in 3rd. Some private polling shows Lloyd with an edge in name ID. Since few predict an outright winner June 5, there will be a November runoff...

...As for issues, the current incumbent, Pete Schabarum himself, is certainly the center of much debate. O'Brien is in that awkward position of having to carry Schabarum's negatives, while at the same time getting considerable support from him. Most of the recent attacks have been directed toward O'Brien...

...For example, O'Brien has been criticized for hiring the campaign management firm of Huckaby-Rodriguez because of their involvement in the 72nd A.D. race in 1988, where uniformed guards were stationed at polling locations. Many Hispanics viewed that as intimidation. Since there is a very large Hispanic population in the 1st District, this issue has been raised. Some CALPEEK sources think it's a cheap shot. A better issue raised by Flores are the huge PAC war-chests controlled by Schabarum. Question: can or will Schabarum use the war-chest funds in an independent expenditure for O'Brien? Legally, he'd have a tough time since some of his operatives, who would run the indy effort, are deeply involved in O'Brien's campaign...

...Bottomline: while O'Brien and Flores battle one another, Lloyd has already won editorial support from the 3 key district newspapers. And while he may not have the resources of Flores and O'Brien, his name ID could put Lloyd in the running. He picked up an important endorsement from newly elected State Sen. Frank Hill(R-Whittier) this past week. Stay tuned...

CA CABLE TV ASSN. DISTRIBUTING 111 DEBATE.

A televised debate on the pros and cons of Prop. 111 (The Traffic Congestion Relief and Gann Spending Limit Reform initiative) is being distributed to all 360 CA cable TV operators by the CA Cable TV Assn. Speaking for the YES on 111 side are Assemblyman Richard Katz(D-Sepulveda) and CA CofC exec. Kirk West, while Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R-Camarillo) and tax reduction advocate Ted Costa are on the NO side. AP's Sacto bureau chief Doug Willis is moderator...

BAKER LETTER HAS SOME REPUBLICANS BOILING.

Most CALPEEK insiders are generally aware of conservative, PRO-LIFE Assemblyman Bill Baker's letter to the Family Research Center in D.C., asking this group to help fund PRO-LIFE candidates against GOP assembly incumbents and candidates who are PRO-CHOICE. The letter has had some serious fall out for Baker. Some CALPEEK sources would be delighted if GOP Assembly Leader Ross Johnson would remove Baker from his vice chair post on the powerful Assembly W&M Cmt. as punishment for his anti-unity letter. But Baker may have bigger problems. State Sen. Ed Davis(R-Valencia) isn't too pleased with Baker, who described Davis as the "GOP's leading crusader for homosexual rights." Another guy who can't be a happy camper is former Assemblyman Wayne Grisham. Baker said Grisham's lifestyle doesn't "reflect FRC values." It's safe to say that Grisham would like to wrap his 9-iron around Sanctionious Bill's neck...

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